Four Laning of DelhUAmbala National Highway-I and Construction of Express Highways

415. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) when the four laning work on Delhi-Ambala National Highway-I was approved and started;

(b) by when the work is likely to be completed;

(c) what is the approved cost of the project and the cost at the completion of the project;

(d) whether Government propose to construct an Express Highway between Delhi and Chandigarh; and

(e) if so, whether Government are also propose to construct such Express Highways between Delhi-Narwana via Jind and Delhi-Hissar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) National Highway-I from Delhi to Murthal is already four laned. The position of National Highway from Murthal to Ambala is as under:—

Name	Date of approval	Likely date of work	Approved cost (Rs. in crores)	completion
Murthal-Smalkha-Karnal (Km. 50 to 130)	31.3.S6	31.12.95	42.50	
Karnal to Ambala (Km. 132.6 to 212.2:	31.3.93 1	3.5 years after award	66.71	

It is too early to indicate the cost of completion of these projects.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

Award of Coat Handling Contract

416. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Indian Express captioned "US irked Australians bag deal" dated the 8th Feb., 94 referring to award of coal handling contract;

(b) if so, what are the details of this deal;

(c) whether there was favouritism in this transaction; and

(d) what system was adopted to select the contenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPSORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) yes Sir.

(b) This relates to the appointment of consultants for the Coal Handling Project.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Guidelines for selection of consultants an laid-down by ADB were strictly followed.

Foreign Construction Companies Participation in Road Construction Projects in India

417. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow participation of foreign construction companies in road construction projects in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what will be the percentage participation of foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH